

# **Cedar River Anadromous Fish Committee**

## **Summary Minutes**

**June 16, 2005**

**Meeting Time 9:00 AM - 1:00 PM**

### **Meeting Location:**

**Metering Building, Second Floor Conference Room**

**SPU Operations Control Center**

**2700 Airport Way South**

**Seattle, WA**

**Members and Alternates Present:** Bruce Bachen (SPU), Brodie Antipa (WDFW), Frank Urabeck (TU), Bill McKay (PSA), Bill Robinson (Public), and Michael Kern (LLTK)

**Other Participants:** Dave Seiler, Chuck Johnson (WDFW), and Paul Faulds (SPU)

**Public:** *Roz Glasser*

### **Call to order**

*Bruce Bachen called the meeting to order at 9:05AM*

### **Approval of agenda**

*Two items were added to the draft agenda, King County funding chinook outmigrant trapping and passing chinook above Landsburg. Members unanimously approved the draft agenda with the additions.*

### **Meeting minutes review**

*The AFC unanimously approved the meeting minutes from April 21, 2005.*

### **Discussion of Locks tour**

*Bruce described the Locks tour as informative and he was thankful that Chuck Ebel was able to provide the AFC with the tour. Bruce and others voiced concern that there may still be some uncertainty as to how fish are being trapped in the distribution chamber within the Locks fish ladder. Members recommended sending the ACOE a letter of support for continued efforts to determine how the fish losses occurred at the ladder and stating that there is an expectation the ACOE will find a reasonable solution to the problem.*

### **Sockeye monitoring and research**

#### ***Review and plan 2005-06 monitoring program***

*Bruce provided members with a handout that reviewed research and monitoring under the sockeye program. Members reviewed new activities, existing activities and discussed other potential evaluations.*

***Fish Health***

*Bruce informed members that Joan Thomas (WDFW) provided SPU with a description of work for the new fish health program. The HCP activity was funding in 2005 at \$24,240.*

***Fry Condition***

*Fry condition is a new activity and is funded in 2005 up to \$2,420. The activity will compare hatchery fry with newly emerged fry from the river.*

***Adult Survival and Distribution***

*Bruce adult survival and distribution was funded up to \$48,200 in 2005. He stated the main objectives of this work was to measure fry to adult survival and to be able to describe the return by brood year, origin or treatment group. In the past most of the work within this activity, involved collecting samples (otoliths, sex, and length) from adult sockeye carcasses in the river and from the broodstock facility and reading otoliths. However, funding limitations have reduced WDFW resources for reading otoliths. Recent data collected from the sockeye fishery and from smolts in the lake have provided useful information. Bruce noted that WDFW was supportive of collecting fish for this program from the new broodstock facility when it is installed in the lower river.*

***Fry Trapping***

*Bruce stated the in 2005 the HCP provides \$42,180 support for the sockeye fry trapping operation in the lower Cedar River and he described the monitoring as an important component of the sockeye program. The operation provides an estimate of the number of wild fry emigrating from the system and provides a basis for total fry production, outmigration timing, and survival (in lake and fry to smolt).*

***Plankton Monitoring***

*Bruce briefed members on the history of the plankton monitoring program noting that much of the initial funding for plankton monitoring was used to conduct juvenile surveys in the lake. Dan Schindler's group at the University of Washington has been doing ongoing zooplankton monitoring under separate funding and has indicated that their data are available. The foundation funding that has sustained maintenance of long term monitoring has now ended. Starting in HCP Year 5 the HCP program calls for a less intensive monitoring effort and in 2005 the funding level is \$8,480. To meet that objective SPU has contracted with Daniel Schindler from the University of Washington to monitor spring plankton levels in Lake Washington and provide the data to SPU.*

***Fry Marking***

*Bruce pointed out that marking program is an ongoing activity and is fundamental to the monitoring work. The program marks hatchery released fry and verifies the otolith marks. Chuck J. added that WDFW has been periodically replacing chillers for marking otoliths. Bruce noted maintaining the chillers were important until the new hatchery is built. The new facility will have a heat exchanger and boiler for controlling water temperatures and marking fry. Bill R. asked Chuck J. how much a chiller cost and he replied about \$4,000. Bruce added the program is funded at \$24,240 in 2005.*

## **Other Evaluations**

### ***Adult Collection***

*Bruce noted that the committee discussed sampling adult sockeye at the Locks earlier. The only other item he would like the AFC to consider with adult sampling is when to again evaluate whether hatchery returns are straying into Bear Creek.*

### ***Juvenile sampling in the lake***

*Bruce recommended WDFW continue sampling juvenile sockeye in Lake Washington.*

### ***Fitness measures***

*Bruce felt the AFC should consider adding some fitness measures to the sockeye program that can be monitored over time. The literature indicates that monitoring fecundity, egg size, length at age of maturity, and other factors as important variables to track. This year he recommended implementing a study that looked at some of these elements.*

## **Break 10:45 – 11:00**

### ***Test fish pump at hatchery***

*Bruce described an interest in testing a fish pump for moving broodstock. He felt it might be useful to test the pump at the broodstock facility this year during spawning season. The study could use ripe fish in a controlled environment to see if there is any effect on egg fertility and development.*

### **Interim mitigation program for coho, chinook and steelhead**

*Bruce provided members with a handout that identified what projects were funded in 2005 and identified for funding in 2006.*

## **Public Comment 12:00**

*Bruce noted we are at the time slot for public comment. He asked Roz Glassor if she had comments and Roz answered no.*

### **Interim mitigation program for coho, chinook and steelhead – Cont.**

*Michael K. felt the representation at today's AFC meeting was too small for making a decision on funding the interim program priorities. Bruce noted we have a couple of months to make a final decision of where to go with the priorities.*

## **Sockeye Hatchery**

### ***SEIS status***

*Bruce noted that City staff was still working on comments on SEIS. It is likely the SEIS will be released near the end of the month.*

## **Information and Discussion**

### ***Chinook passage over Landsburg***

*Bruce reported that Bob Everett (WDFW) stated at the Oversight Committee meeting, WDFW supports continued passage of all Chinook above Landsburg. WDFW also recommends the continued evaluation of fish passage to determine if there is a need to aid Chinook recolonization.*

***Juvenile sockeye outmigrants***

*Dave S. said estimated about 37 million NOR fry outmigrated from the Cedar River this year. Brodie reported approx. 15 million fry were released from the hatchery.*

***Weir Report 2004***

*Brodie has completed a draft report and is waiting for the Chinook numbers.*

***Weir Permitting***

*Brodie reported permitting is going fine for the 2005 season.*

***Steelhead counts***

*WDFW reported counting 13 steelhead redds.*

***Cedar River***

*Bruce reported some additional blocks of water have been added to the minimum instream flow and the Chester Morris reservoir is close to full.*

***Adjourn***

*The meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM.*